



**United States Attorney  
District of New Hampshire**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release  
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**CORPORATION SENTENCED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME**

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE** - United States Attorney Tom Colantuono and Special Agent in Charge of the Environmental Protection Agency Michael Hubbard announced today that Algonquin Power Systems - New Hampshire, Inc. (Algonquin) was sentenced in U.S. District Court on two criminal charges arising from its operation of the Riverbend Hydroelectric Plant in Franklin, New Hampshire. The company was charged with Negligent Discharge of a Harmful Quantity of Oil into a Water of the United States, and with Negligent Discharge of a Pollutant through a Point Source to Waters of the United States Without a Permit. The Court accepted a stipulation contained in the plea agreement, in which the defendant company agreed to a sentence of a fine in the amount of \$10,000.

The case arose in 2001, at a time when Algonquin was responsible for operating the Riverbend hydroelectric plant. According to stipulated facts, on January 31, 2001, the Riverbend facility leaked hydraulic oil into the Winnepesaukee River, but was placed back into operation on January 31, 2001, without repair. Only after the plant again leaked oil into the river on February 15, 2001, did Algonquin conduct on-site diagnosis and take the plant off-line for repair.

In addition to the criminal charges, the Environmental and Natural Resources Division of the United States Department of Justice brought a related civil action, which resulted in the imposition of an additional fine of \$100,000.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated "Corporate negligence will not be tolerated when it comes to the environment. Criminal environmental laws serve as a backstop to ensure that companies conducting operations on or near our waterways will be punished if they breach their legal obligations. By enforcing these laws, we hope to impress upon other corporate citizens their responsibilities to the environment under our laws."

Michael Hubbard, Special Agent in Charge of the EPA's Regional Office agreed with U.S. Attorney Colantuono's comments and added, "The health and safety of the citizens of New Hampshire and the protection of the environment are a vital part of the mission of our agency."

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Alfred Rubega.